

REMARKS

In accordance with this supplemental response, claims 6 and 7 have been amended in formal respects and new claims 9-17 have been added. The specification has been revised in editorial respects to correct informalities and provide a direct antecedent basis for the claim language.

New independent claim 9 is directed to a gas compressor comprised of a housing having an oil sump for storing oil and supplying oil under pressure during use of the gas compressor; a cylinder disposed in the housing and having a generally elliptical inner peripheral surface; a rotationally driven rotor rotatably disposed in the cylinder; vane grooves formed in the rotor and extending inwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the rotor; vanes slidably disposed in respective ones of the vane grooves and cooperating with the inner peripheral surface of the cylinder and the outer peripheral surface of the rotor to define compression chambers for intaking a gas, compressing the gas and discharging compressed gas during rotation of the rotor; means including bottom portions of the vane grooves defining a back pressure space; a first high pressure oil passage establishing communication between the oil sump and the vane groove bottom portions when the vanes are at their discharge stroke positions; a second high pressure oil passage

establishing communication between the oil sump and the back pressure space; and a valve that opens the second high pressure oil passage during periods of start-up and low speed operation of the gas compressor and closes the second high pressure oil passage during periods of normal speed operation of the gas compressor.

Claim 9 patentably distinguishes over the combined teachings of Takao and Matsushita for the same reasons discussed in the previous response regarding the patentability of independent claim 1. More particularly, the coaction between the valve and the second high pressure oil passage is not suggested or disclosed in the prior art.

Dependent claims 10-17 define further features of the gas compressor including the structure of the pressure-responsive valve.

In view of the foregoing, and for the reasons advanced in the previous response, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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